



NEWS

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Remodeler sentenced over felony theft of sales tax

Tacoma, Wash., July 11, 2005—Robert C. Dingman, the operator of a defunct Fife-based remodeling business, was sentenced today to 12 months in prison after pleading guilty to five felony counts of stealing sales tax.

Pierce County Superior Court Judge Bruce W. Cohoe also ordered Dingman, of Gig Harbor, to make nearly \$300,000 restitution to the state.

Dingman, 58, was president of D&D Contractors, Inc., which did business as Quality Home Enclosures, installing sunrooms, patio rooms and deck enclosures. He was prosecuted by the Financial Crimes Unit of the state Attorney General's Office at the request of the Washington State Department of Revenue.

The investigation began after the company failed to file state excise tax returns in 2000 and early 2001 despite evidence that it was doing business and collecting sales taxes on its contracts.

According to the charging papers, Dingman habitually paid personal expenses out of company bank accounts and disguised these disbursements as business expenses. He also used company funds to purchase vehicles, a residence, personal watercraft and improvements to another boat.

The business closed in late 2001 amid numerous consumer complaints over failure to perform, prompting the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney's Office to charge Dingman with theft by deception and money laundering in a separate case. The trial on those charges is scheduled for October.

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